

On Denotation and Connotation in Web Semantics, Collaboration and Metadata

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Earth systems science is fundamentally cross-disciplinary. This, increasingly, requires sharing and exchange of geoscientific information among researchers with different backgrounds and traditions crossing discipline boundaries. This information can be both rich and complex, and content is often not readily interpretable by either humans or machines. In the former case the lack of common semantics, tacit knowledge, and different paradigms harm collaborative research blocking communication and preventing convergence of practices, exchange formats, and access mechanisms. The key to addressing such issues is possibly the representation of knowledge, acting as a map: guiding actors and driving collaboration. Several approaches, methods, and tools can be employed that rely either on the strict denotative formalization of knowledge or loose connotative pragmatics.



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